



# STARTFORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

## Medical Officer of Health's Annual Report, 1938.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1938.

### SECTION A.

#### Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (acres) ... ..	96,305
Population ... ..	4,009
No. of Inhabited Houses ... ..	1,267
Rateable Value ... ..	£45,534
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ...	£182
Comparability factor ... ..	0.89

The chief industry of the district is agriculture, principally milk production and sheep-farming. There is also some quarrying.

There is some unemployment throughout the district.

#### Vital Statistics of the Year.

		TOTAL.	MALES.	FEMALES.	
Live Births	Legitimate	- 56	- 31	- 25	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the Resident Pop. - 15.5
	Illegitimate	- 3	- 3	- 0	
Still Births	Legitimate	- 5	- 1	- 4	Rate per 1,000 total live and still Births - 78.1
	Illegitimate	- 0	- 0	- 0	
Deaths	-	- 49	- 28	- 21	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated Resi- dent Population - 12.2

Deaths from Puerperal Causes ... .. 0

#### *Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age:*

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births (4) ...	67.8
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births (4)	71.4
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births (0)	0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ..	4
" " Measles (all ages) .. ...	0
" " Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	0
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ... ..	1

## SECTION B.

### General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

#### 1. (i.) PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS. The staff consists of:—

(a) A part-time Medical Officer of Health, who holds the diploma in Public Health of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. He also acts as Medical Superintendent of the Council's Isolation Hospital.

(b) A Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, who is an Associate of the Faculties of Architects and Surveyors, and holds the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Examination Board. He has been appointed Inspector under the Public Health (Meat) Regulation, 1924, Factories and Workshops Acts, Petroleum Acts, and Shops Acts.

There are no special Nurses or Health Visitors, but Lady Health Visitors employed by the County Council visit the district if necessary.

#### (ii.) The following services are provided in the area:—

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES. Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are made for Medical Practitioners practising in the district, at the North Riding County Council Laboratory at Scarborough, at the Council's expense. Outfits for collecting material for examination are provided by the Laboratory.

(b) AMBULANCE. An ambulance is provided for the conveyance of cases of infectious disease to the Isolation Hospital. There is no other ambulance service.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME. There are four District Nursing Associations in the area. In each case the Nurse's services are free to members of the association and are also available to non-members on payment of a small fee. In addition to subscriptions and non-members' fees, each Association receives a grant from the County Council.

#### (d) TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

Tuberculosis County Council Clinics at:—

The Rutson Hospital, Northallerton.  
8, Hawthorne Terrace, South Bank.  
152, Victoria Road, Scarborough.

Venereal Diseases Clinics at:—

The Memorial Hospital, Darlington.  
Leeds Infirmary.  
York County Hospital.  
Scarborough Hospital.

(e) HOSPITAL. An Isolation Hospital is maintained by the Council at Hunderthwaite for the treatment of cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria. It consists of three large wards and two small observation wards. A Nurse-caretaker lives in a separate block and is in constant charge. The Medical Officer of Health acts as Medical Superintendent.

Arrangements have been made for any cases of Small Pox which may arise to be transferred to the Small Pox Hospital, Binchester, Co. Durham.

There are no other hospitals in the district.

#### 3. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

(i.) MIDWIVES. The Nurses of the four District Associations referred to above. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CLINICS. None in the district.

(ii.) INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION. The Workhouse Hospital at Richmond is available for unmarried mothers, illegitimate children, and homeless children. No other institutional provision is made for maternity purposes.

(iii.) HEALTH VISITORS. See Section B. I. (i.) (b).

(iv.) CHILD LIFE PROTECTION. No local arrangements.

(v.) ORTHOPEDIC TREATMENT. No local arrangements.



## SECTION C.

### 1. Water Supply.

The scheme for the provision of a pure water supply to the village of Barningham has been sanctioned by the Council, and a loan from the Ministry of Health has been applied for.

In the Bowes district some 25 farms suffered acutely from the severe drought, and the Council are at present having under consideration the question of supplying from neighbouring springs a suitable supply at a reasonable cost. The village itself experienced no scarcity of water during the drought, as it has an excellent supply of running water which is pumped by means of duplicate hydraulic rams into a covered reservoir, whence most of the houses have piped supplies. There are also standards in the main thoroughfares.

Boldron obtains its supplies from springs which are collected into a covered reservoir and piped into the village. The supply is constant and of satisfactory quality.

Startforth is supplied by meter from the Barnard Castle Urban District Council's reservoir. The supply is constant, and the amount charged for varies from 15,000 to 29,000 gallons per day. This is three or four times the amount necessary and points to a leakage or waste of water.

Cotherstone, Romaldkirk, Lartington, and Mickleton parishes receive their supply from the Tees Valley Water Board. This water is impounded at Grassholme and in Baldersdale, and conveyed to Lartington for filtration, after which it is delivered to these four parishes. The supply is constant and the quality excellent.

Barningham. A scheme has been prepared and submitted for obtaining water from a spring on Barningham Moor, which has always been the source of supply for this village. This scheme includes duplicate slow gravity filters, each nine feet square, to be placed at the moor gates, and a three-inch "spun" iron delivery main from thence to this village. There is evidence of surface water contamination during heavy rainfalls. Four public fountains are also suggested. The cost of the scheme will be approximately £850. The work is in progress.

Ovington has been provided with a public piped supply from a fifty feet deep well, and now has an excellent supply of water.

Other parishes are supplied from private wells, mostly shallow, with pumps attached, or from springs privately piped to individual houses.

Many samples of water were taken during the year by the Public Health Officers from private supplies for chemical and bacteriological examination. These samples were in connection with the wells and schemes for Romaldkirk, Ovington, and Barningham.

### 2. Rivers and Streams.

One complaint of pollution has been made during the year.

### 3. (i.) Closet Accommodation.

During the year 24 additional water closets have been provided. The following conversions have been made:—

9 Privy Middens to Water Closets.						
Water Closets in district at end of 1938	...	...	...	...	...	283
Privy Middens	"	"	"	...	...	428
Earth Closets	"	"	"	...	...	356
Pail Closets	"	"	"	...	...	168
Chemical Closets	"	"	"	...	...	7

### (ii.) Public Cleansing (Scavenging).

Startforth is the only parish where scavenging is undertaken by the local authority. The refuse is collected twice per week in the Low Startforth area from 94 houses, and once per week on the Lendings from 24 houses. The total number of houses from which refuse is collected is 118.

In the other parishes the inhabitants are responsible for the removal of excreta and refuse and for the cleansing of privies, ashpits, etc. Complaints have been received regarding indiscriminate tipping of refuse. To supervise this is an awkward task, as no correct information can be obtained as to the persons responsible. Most of the tips are at a good distance from the parishes. It is to be hoped that land will be secured for the purpose, situate near the villages, when it will be possible for the tips to be kept under supervision and controlled.

### (iii.) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Summary of work done in the Public Health Department during the year 1938 and action taken under the Public Health Acts on Byelaws, etc.

## PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

				Number of Informal written or verbal Notices by Inspector.	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority.	Number of Notices complied with.
Dwelling-houses and Schools	{ Foul Condition			...	—	—
	{ Overcrowding			...	—	—
	{ Structural Defects			...	—	—
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	27	—	27
Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	—	—	—
Ash-pits and Privies	...	...	...	2	—	2
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	...	...	...	2	—	2
Water-closets	...	...	...	—	—	—
Defective Yard Paving	...	...	...	—	—	—
House Drainage	...	...	...	7	—	7
Water Supply	...	...	...	5	—	5
To Provide Water Closets	...	...	...	3	—	2
Dangerous Structures	...	...	...	—	—	—
Animals Kept	...	...	...	—	2	2
Other Nuisances	...	...	...	—	—	—
Field Drainage	...	...	...	1	—	1
Total				47	2	48

(iv.) **Shops and Offices.**

## (a) Shops Act, 1934.

There are no shops in the district where assistants are employed, but several were inspected and found satisfactory in all respects.

## (b) Factory and Workshops Acts, 1901 and 1921.

During the year 22 inspections of Workshops and Factories were made, and the general and hygienic conditions were found satisfactory.

## (c) Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928.

Inspections have been made under the Petroleum Acts. There were issued during the year 15 licences for the storage of petroleum spirit, and one licence to store Calcium Carbide.

## (d) Premises and occupations which can be controlled by bye-laws and regulations.

There are no such occupations or underground sleeping rooms in the district. Bye-laws with regard to slaughter-houses were adopted in 1926, but no action has been called for.

(v.) **Camping Sites.**

## (a) No. of sites in use in 1938..... 1

## (b) No. of sites licensed under Public Health Act (1936) Sect. 269..... 1

## (c) Estimated maximum number of campers in area at one time..... 20

Tents, vans, sheds, and similar structures have given rise to no serious difficulties. Bye-laws have been adopted by the North Riding of Yorkshire County Council dealing with gipsy encampments and caravan dwellers. These do not apply to dwelling-vans used by workmen employed in road and constructional work, except in case of nuisance and obstruction. They are operated by the police.

(vi.) **Smoke Abatement.**

There is no nuisance due to smoke in the district.

(vii.) **Swimming Baths and Pools.**

There are none in the district.

(viii.) **Eradication of Bed Bugs.**

No action has been found necessary.

**4. Schools.**

The hygienic condition of the schools is fairly satisfactory. Children found suffering from infectious disease, being unclean, or verminous, are excluded from school.



**SECTION D.****HOUSING CONDITIONS.**

Three houses were erected during the year.

**1. General Observations as to Housing Conditions.**

The houses in the district are mainly built of stone, and are of fairly sound construction, but are of an old type, and many are wanting in modern sanitary requirements.

Very few houses are of recent building.

The chief defects are lack of sinks, washing accommodation, food stores, insufficient window space, and dampness, the latter is generally due to lack of damp-proof courses, and floors below ground level.

**2. Sufficiency of Supply of Houses.**

(a) No serious shortage is apparent, and the majority of houses are let at a very low rental.

(b) No building schemes are in operation.

(c) Sites for building are numerous, and building by private enterprise has been rather slow during the year.

**3. Overcrowding.**

(a) There is no serious overcrowding.

(b) Causes are inability to pay rent of available houses.

(c) Overcrowding has generally been abated by informal arrangement between landlord and tenant.

**4. Fitness of Houses.**

(a) The main difficulty in the district appears to be the high cost of labour and building materials, and the low rents charged.

(b) Gradual improvements are being carried out by owners under pressure of the Local Authority.

**5. Water Supply.**

(a) Several farms and large country houses have their own private supplies.

(b) Bowes, Cotherstone, Lartington, Romaldkirk, Mickleton, Startforth, Boldron, Ovington, and Barningham have an adequate supply. Other villages are supplied from wells with pumps attached.

There are no housing bye-laws in operation in the district, except those relating to Gipsy Caravan Dwellers, these being operated by the police.

**HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACT, 1926.**

This is operated by the County Council. Two grants were made during the year.

**HOUSING ACT, 1930.****Housing Statistics.****1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—**

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	19
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	72
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	...	8
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	50
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	19

2. *Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	...	...	12
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—*

A.—Proceedings under sections 17, 18, and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—							
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—						
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	4

C.—Proceedings under sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	nil

D.—Proceedings under section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	nil

## SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### 1. Milk Supply.

(i.) Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

This being chiefly an agricultural district, the most important industry, from a Public Health point of view, is the supply of milk. The report of the County Veterinary Inspector for the year may, therefore, be of interest.

No. of visits to farms	...	...	...	...	...	...	101
No. of cattle inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,397
No. of cattle slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order (1925)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

There are 360 registered farms in the district and these are inspected systematically. A small number are wholesale milk purveyors and retail milk purveyors. The remainder make butter and cheese. No complaints have been made during the year regarding the quality or cleanliness of their products. There are 10 Accredited Licence-holders, and one Tuberculin Tested Licence-holder.

### 2. Meat.

The number of slaughter-houses in the district is seven, of which six are registered, and one licensed. No notice of emergency slaughter was received under the Public Health (Meat) Regulation (1924).

### 3. Adulterations.

Foods and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, is enforced by the North Riding County Council.



# **LIST OF ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYELAWS, Etc.**

Building Byelaws, adopted June 10th, 1914.  
Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.  
Public Health Act, 1925.  
Slaughter-house Byelaws, 1926.

## **SECTION F.—INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.**

Causes of Death, 1938 (International Commission (Para. 1929) Classification).

DISEASE.	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
1. Enteric Fevers ... ..	0	0	0
2. Measles ... ..	0	0	0
3. Scarlet Fever ... ..	1	0	1
4. Whooping Cough ... ..	0	0	0
5. Diphtheria ... ..	0	0	0
6. Influenza ... ..	0	0	0
7. Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	0	0	0
8. Cerebro-spinal Fever ... ..	0	0	0
9. Respiratory Tuberculosis ... ..	3	0	3
10. Other forms of Tuberculosis ... ..	1	0	1
11. Syphilis ... ..	0	0	0
12. General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis ... ..	0	0	0
13. Cancer ... ..	2	2	4
14. Diabetes Mellitus ... ..	0	0	0
15. Cerebral Hæmorrhage ... ..	2	2	4
16. Heart Disease ... ..	8	6	14
17. Aneurysm ... ..	0	0	0
18. Other Circulatory Diseases ... ..	2	2	4
19. Bronchitis ... ..	0	0	0
20. Pneumonia (all types) ... ..	2	1	3
21. Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	0	0	0
22. Peptic Ulcer ... ..	1	0	1
23. Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) ... ..	1	0	1
24. Appendicitis ... ..	0	0	0
25. Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..	0	0	0
26. Other Diseases of the Liver ... ..	0	1	1
27. Other Digestive Diseases ... ..	0	1	1
28. Acute and Chronic Nephritis ... ..	2	0	2
29. Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	0	0	0
30. Other Puerperal Diseases ... ..	0	0	0
31. Congenital Debility; Prematurity ... ..	1	1	2
32. Senility ... ..	0	0	0
33. Suicide ... ..	0	0	0
34. Other forms of Violence ... ..	0	3	3
35. Other Defined Diseases ... ..	2	2	4
36. Ill-defined or unknown ... ..	0	0	0
Totals	28	21	49

2. There was a considerable increase in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever, but all except one fatal case were of a mild type and were not followed by any complications. At the same time many cases of sore throat, clinically scarlatinal in type, but without any other symptoms, were seen. It seems probable that it was these cases, where sometimes there may have been a rash so transient as not to be seen, which caused the spread of the disease. No apparent association with puerperal infection was noticed, but there was a number of cases of rheumatic fever and chorea in the spring.

With the use of the modern sulphonamide products in the treatment of Scarlet Fever, the incidence of complications such as ear and kidney disease is greatly reduced, and this in turn shortens the average length of stay in hospital. It is noteworthy that there have been no return cases in this district.

One case of Typhoid Fever occurred. The source of infection was found to be a carrier and steps were taken to prevent any further cases from arising from this cause.

Amongst non-notifiable infectious diseases, influenza was prevalent in the spring of the year.

A scheme for the immunisation of children against diphtheria is now in action. Measles serum is not yet provided for prophylaxis or attenuation of the disease.

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases during 1938.

DISEASE.				TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.		ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL.		TOTAL DEATHS.
Smallpox	...	...	...	0	...	0	...	0
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	28	...	28	...	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	0	...	0	...	0
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	0
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	0	...	0	...	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	0	...	0	...	0
Pneumonia	...	...	...	4	...	0	...	3
Erysipelas	...	...	...	0	...	0	...	0

4. (a) PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

The County Medical Officer visits all cases of blindness and advises as to the necessary action. In the case of school children, the School Medical Officer attends to their requirements.

(b) PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS.

It has not been necessary to take any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulation, 1925, or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

5. TUBERCULOSIS. New Cases and Mortality in 1938.

		NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
Age periods.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
Years.		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
35	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...
45	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
55	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals		0	3	0	1	2	1	1	0

The ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths / Total tuberculosis deaths = 0 / 4

Notification of tuberculosis is well carried out.

In conclusion, my aim has been to give as comprehensive a review as possible of all matters affecting the sanitary administration of the district. I wish to thank all members of the Council, officials, and staff, for the assistance given, which I greatly appreciate.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

E. S. HAWTHORNE, F.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

July, 1939.

Medical Officer of Health.



## APPENDIX.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates, and Case-rates for certain Infections Diseases in the year 1938. } { England and Wales, London, 126 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns.

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

	England and Wales.	126 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 to 1931 Census)	London Administrative County
Rates per 1,000 Population.				
Births:—				
Live ...	15.1	15.0	15.4	13.4
Still ...	0.60	0.65	0.60	0.48
Deaths:—				
All Causes ...	11.6	11.7	11.0	11.4
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers ...				
Smallpox ...				
Measles ...				
Scarlet Fever ...				
Whooping Cough ...				
Diphtheria ...				
Influenza ...				
Notifications:—				
Smallpox ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Scarlet Fever ...	2.41	2.60	2.58	2.05
Diphtheria ...	1.58	1.85	1.53	1.90
Enteric fever ...	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.05
Erysipelas ...	0.40	0.46	0.39	0.46
Pneumonia ...	1.10	1.28	0.98	0.98
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
Deaths under 1 year of age ...	5.3	5.7	5.1	5.7
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age ...	5.5	7.8	3.6	13.1
Maternal Mortality:—				
Puerperal Sepsis ...	0.89	Not available		
Others ...	2.19			
Total ...	3.08			
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e., Live and Still).				
Maternal Mortality:—				
Puerperal Sepsis ...	0.86	Not available		
Others ...	2.11			
Total ...	2.97			
Notifications:—				
Puerperal fever ...	14.42	18.08	12.51	3.53
Puerperal pyrexia ...				15.46







